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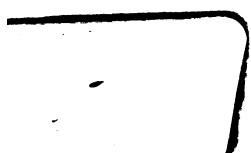
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INTRODUCTION.

HAVING been earnestly solicited by
divers persons of condition to suf-
fer the ensuing chapters to see the light,
I now, worthy reader, exhibit them,
with the hope that the high deeds therein
recounted will exhilarate, if not instruct
thee, in the hour of recreation.

I obtained the volume thus: Wan-
dering one sultry day, in the year 1737,
(being then but youthful) amidst the
ruins of an ancient castle, well known

to

London 1737

ii INTRODUCTION.

to have been a residence of Geoffrey Chaucer, I chanced to hit my elbow against a wall in one of the chambers; the wall returned a hollow sound, which excited my curiosity. By degrees I peeled off so much of the plaister, that I could easily perceive that the cavity within had been, in old times, a cupboard of the Chaucer family. On a decayed shelf, amidst the relicks of some Gothic earthen-ware, lay a roll of vellum, happily within my reach. This I drew forth very tenderly. I found, upon examination, that fundry adventures of the great duke of Lancaster and Edward the Black Prince were therein

INTRODUCTION. iii

related in the Latin tongue. Some mouse had eaten many portions of the preface, and a few leaves of the history itself; which is the reason, worthy reader, why the first and second chapters, or visits, are wanting. Nevertheless from the injured fragments I made shift to discover that these memoirs had been compiled by friar Hildebrand, a Cistercian, at the desire, and under the auspices of Geoffrey Chaucer, that pleasant poet, for the use of his neighbour the lord abbot of Reading, who being old and inquisitive, had need to be amused and comforted.

The

iv INTRODUCTION.

The duke of Lancaster being the patron, yea, the kinsman of our bard, and taking some delight in his society, the latter came to learn many circumstances of the life of that illustrious lord, and of his princely brother. Moreover, he accompanied them in several expeditions, (as thou, worthy reader, wilt perceive) and was thereby a witness to their singular and sublime achievements.

The reverend friar, to render this his narrative the more delectable, introduceth John of Gaunt in person, who relates his own adventures, and those of the Prince of Wales, to the lord Edmond

INTRODUCTION. 7

mond Mortimer, earl of Marche, his valiant kinsman, who, having been sorely wounded at a tournament, and thereby confined to his castle, beseeches the royal duke to rehearse the following history. This, courteous reader, I, with much pains and diligence, have at length done into English, expecting thy indulgence, which doubtless thou wilt grant, when thou considerest that the original was very mouldy and mouse-eaten.

And whereas many vain pretenders to romance may hereafter seek (and this I have solid reasons for suspecting) to palm upon the public the offspring of their
own



THE
ADVENTURES

OF
JOHN OF GAUNT,
DUKE OF LANCASTER.

VISIT III.

WELCOME, Cousin of
Lancaster, said the noble
earl of Marche, raising himself on
his elbow and extending his right
hand towards the illustrious visitor;

VOL. I.

B

I en-

I enjoyed last night a more uninterrupted repose, (blessed be the holy Virgin) than I have at any season since my late misadventure.

- My bones ache less, and the anguish of my wound is considerably assuaged. Much was I delighted, courteous kinsman, with the particulars you related yesterday concerning your youthful days. Proceed, I pray you, if it be not irksome) to perform the promise you then made, of recounting the various and extraordinary adventures that have happened to yourself,

JOHN OF GAUNT. 3

self, and that flower of English chivalry, the valiant Prince of Wales. Such a recital will make my mind merry, and contribute to the restoration of my bodily ease.

Brave Mortimer, replied the duke, if you can pardon the egotism which is incident to old age, I will incontinently gratify your desire.

I was yet a young man, when one day, as I sat in my chamber, in the royal castle of Windsor, my

B 2 brother

4 A D V E N T U R E S O F

brother Edward, that glorious and lamented pattern of princely and knightly virtue, entered, and with an anxious air accosted me as follows: Brother of Lancaster, the laurels which adorn my brows, the exultations of victory throughout a grateful kingdom, have no power to mitigate the pains with which a passion less grand, but more imperious than the thirst of fame, now afflicts this enslaved and unalterable bosom. My love for the lady Ermenilda, of the noble house
of

of Beauchamp*, is augmented, is confirmed: the tumult of war, instead of stifling this affection, hath served but to re-animate and fix its force, and the triumphs of Poictiers and Cressy, gave the final defeat to a heart already wounded at the festival of Hatfield. For in the hour of battle she was present to my mind; in the extremity of danger did I invoke Ermenilda; it is thou, paragon of excellence, said I in secret, that, next to Heaven, now inspirest my breast

* Earl of Warwick.

6. A D V E N T U R E S O F

with valour; now stringest my arm
with vigour; the spoils, and the
captives, and the kingdoms he may
gain, shall be the trophies of thy
conquest over him who adores thee.

In fine, brother of Lancaster, it is
my firm intention to depart with-
out delay for the castle of the earl
of Warwick, and (with the favour
of the saints above) deserve the
smiles of Ermenilda.

The Black Prince ended, and I
replied in these words: The in-
terval of tranquillity which Eng-
land

JOHN OF GAUNT. 7

land now enjoys, presents, heroic brother, an opportunity for your design. I approve, I applaud this ardour to appear worthy of the love of the beautiful and illustrious daughter of earl Beauchamp; but permit, I beseech you, that the duke of Gloucester and myself may bear you company; our brother of York likewise will, I am well persuaded, rejoice to partake in this agreeable expedition. We are youthful, are impatient to survey this great and happy kingdom, and

B 4

to

8 ADVENTURES OF

to signalize our valour in the achievements of chivalry.

Generous Lancafter, replied the prince, be it then as you desire. But it is my wish that we disclose not, for a certain time, our royal name and quality. I will lay aside my black armour, and provide me with a habergeon of a different fashion. Thus shall we the more easily mingle with the many, who imagining that we are knights of less exalted condition, will speak and act without reserve in our presence,

fence, and display the native vigour
and variety of their characters.
To-morrow then, ere the bell
rings for matins, meet me with
York and Gloucester at the ivy-
covered cottage, which you see
near yonder thicket; for thither
will I command my squire to hold
in readiness my steed and arms.
Farewell, the king our father,
expects me at the council, and I
haste to hear his pleasure. This
said, the prince retired.

Friar Hildebrand here relates, that the lord Edmund Mortimer, experiencing a sudden pang from his wound, which was yet but tender, prayed the duke of Lancaster, to discontinue, for the present, his narration.

VISIT

JOHN OF GAUNT. II

VISIT IV.

GOOD health, and speedily, to the earl of Marche, said John of Gaunt, on the ensuing day, as he entered the apartment of the infirm hero; the wounds received in war, or in tournaments, which are an image of war, carry with them the consolation of a glorious name, a very balsam to the mischief, which last is but

12 ADVENTURES OF

temporary, while the former is immortal. Of the wound in my head, which I received at the field of Cressy, what remains but a scar, which is now scarcely visible?

The earl, who was somewhat recovered, thus replied with a look of gratefulness; illustrious duke, your words are ever comfortable, as your actions are ever benign. Lo! I wait with attentive ears to learn in what manner you issued forth from Windsor,

JOHN OF GAUNT. 13,
with the knightly prince of
Wales.

Then the duke of Lancaster,
having drawn his chair to the bed-
side, resumed the thread of his
discourse as follows: On the mor-
row we assembled at the hour
and place of rendezvous. The
duke of Gloucester first appeared.
He bestrode a chesnut-coloured
steed of matchless strength and
beauty: his armour was inlaid
with a silver border, in imitation
of rich foliage; from his helmet
rose

rose a plume of lofty-crimson feathers; on his target he bore, for the purpose of disguise, a dolphin a field azure. The prince of Wales came next. Instead of his well-known sable coat of mail, he was now clad in a hauberk of the plainest steel, not inapplicable to his own unostentatious disposition. He was mounted on a white courser; the device on his target was a wolf in a field or. I was third at the cottage. My armour differed little from that of the prince of Wales. I wore, indeed,

in

in my morion some tufts of black horse-hair : my device was an eagle. Last came the duke of York in a habergeon somewhat rusty ; for so indolent was this prince, that he had neglected to give the timely orders to his squire to have it scoured the preceding evening. On his target was painted a griffin, and he pressed the sides of his sable steed Uraldo.

And here, my lord of Marche, it may not prove unreasonable to dwell for a few moments on the
temper

temper and character of each of these illustrious brethren.

Of all the knights whose achievements were known to fame, Edward prince of Wales was alike the first in virtue, as in valour and nobility. Whether viewed in the paths of war, or in the softer scenes of peace, filial piety, humanity, modesty and greatness of soul adorned him without equal, and almost without example. The pattern of rectitude, the scourge of depravity; his deeds and course of
life

life were the standard of true excellence to the youth, not of England only, but of Europe; a great beacon shining from afar, to direct them to the road of honour, and to warn them from disgrace; till to be like the Black Prince, became the proverbial praise to which parental anxiety roused the rising generation. In him science met a friend, religion an active and unequivocal protector. In the hours of familiarity with his selected companions, (a distinction to which merit was the indispensable

penfable recommendation) he forgot not that he was one day to be the fovereign of a great people: amidst the pleasures of a gallant and luxurious court, the profligate and the buffoon found no refuge at his board; intemperance turned away with difappointment from his threfhold, and curfing the decorum that refufed her admittance, the jealous fense of dignity that defpifed and repulfed her. . . . Thus a fortunate conjunction of thefe personal qualities with an elevated ftation enabled the heir apparent to
render

render worth and nobleness the very *humour of the times*, till even ambition learnt to hate her own artifice and venality, and to found her hope of grandeur on an attachment to true glory.

Edmond, duke of York, was of an indolent, but generous temper; was neither very vicious, nor very virtuous; his chief praise consisted in an unlimited admiration for the prince of Wales.

But

But widely different were the genius and character of Thomas, duke of Gloucester. Aspiring, restless; magnificent, profuse, he possessed all the ardour without the solidity of the Black Prince. His hot-headedness, or, if you will, the ebullition of youthful spirit (I speak as an historian, not as a brother) betrayed him into quarrels ill-becoming his condition as a prince of the blood royal, while his vanity bade him listen to the adulation of those who would persuade him that his conduct was the

the perfection of magnanimity. Nor were the affectionate counsels and concern of the prince of Wales at all times as prevalent, as from their value they should have been. For the duke of Gloucester, though he loved and admired his brother Edward, had secretly indulged the erroneous supposition, that he himself enjoyed, in some instances, the superiority; and that neither the wisdom, nor even the virtues of the prince of Wales, were so pre-eminent as the partiality of the nation had accounted them.

them. Such, my lord of Marche,
were the characters of these princes.

The morning proved serene,
and the matin bell was summon-
ing the canons to their holy duty,
when we, with our respective
squires, departed from the ivy-
cottage, and took the road to Ox-
ford, intending to touch at Wood-
stock, where resided the poet
Chaucer. We were not many
miles from Windsor, when we
descried a knight before us, who,
by the hard trot in which he

I

travelled,

trilled, seemed to have expedition more at heart than ease or meditation. We spurred our steeds, who being fleet as well as vigorous, soon enabled us to overtake him. The usual courtesy salutation past; our satisfaction was supreme, when, upon lifting up his vizor, he discovered himself to be no other than the gallant Owen Glendower. Owen was now in his nineteenth year, ardent of soul, and robust of body. He had been refining his manners at the court of our father Edward, and was

now

now on his return to Wales, where he possessed an extensive heritage on the borders of the Dee.

We discoursed upon many topics relating to love and chivalry. The Cambrian hero informed us that he meant to be present at a gorgeous tournament, to be solemnized at the royal castle of Carnarvon, at which it was expected that many knights and barons, both of England and of Wales, would display their high valour and address in combat, and that all
who

who were beautiful and illustrious in the land, of dames and damsels renowned for rigorous virtue, would embellish the magnificent and martial spectacle. He also added, that the daughter of the lord of Warwick, the lady Ermilda, was, if rumour spoke not falsely, even now at Carnarvon castle, with her cousin, the lady Sigismunda, the much-admired daughter of earl Montacute the governor*.

* Montacute earl of Salisbury.

No sooner had the noble Glendower delivered this information, than the Black Prince with joy exclaimed, To Carnarvon then, brave knights, let our career be directed: already I presage scenes of chivalrous atchievement, that will dignify your names to the remotest posterity. The hero said: with one accord we embraced the resolution, each exulting in the hope of conquest over warriors great in arms, and of being himself assailed and vanquished by the irresistible attractions of some adorable spectatress

spectatress of his valour and agility. But the day of tournament was not at hand: much room therefore remained for intermediate exploit, much too for applause, or unexpected adventure, ere our hearts could be delighted with a recreation so sublime.

But enough for the present, noble kinsman, said the sensible and considerate Lancaster; I will not fatigue your spirit (weak as now you needs must be) with too ample a portion of my history.

At another time I will resume it.
To whom the earl of Marche: So
impatient am I, most beloved
cousin, to hear what befel you ere
your arrival at Carnarvon, that,
should you not continue your nar-
ration to-morrow, I shall surely be
ill at ease. By holy Paul, replied
the duke, if I be alive and able,
I will not fail to gratify you.
Having thus sworn, he took his
leave and retired.

V I S I T

V I S I T V.

SCARCE had the golden sun attained to his meridian grandeur, when the benevolent and punctual John of Gaunt repaired to the apartment of the expecting earl Mortimer. Salutation made, and divers courteous questions asked and answered, the high-born historian thus addressed his feeble kinsman: Meanwhile the

C 3 speedy

speedy hours passed away. The keenness of the morning air had awakened appetite: but Woodstock was now in sight; the smoke which curled from the sequestered roof of the learned and hospitable Geoffrey Chaucer assured us at once of a reception and a repast. And now we enter through the neat white gate; we wind down a sloping alley, which, hedged on either side with the woodbine and wild rose, for a while conceals the mansion. At length it salutes our eyes from the midst of a modest eminence that

that gradually swelled above the level of the valley, and at the bottom of which ran a rivulet that maintained the adjacent fields in a vivid and perennial verdure. Here, in the cultivation of letters, did the independent and happy poet lay the ground-work of immortality. We alighted; we entered a little vestibule overshaded with white jessamine; we advanced; on one side was a kitchen, from the rafters of which hung many a ham and goodly flitch of bacon. By the fire sat an elderly and orderly dame,

who rose at our approach, and conducted us to a parlour, (curt-feying ever and anon) where a damfel of some beauty, at whose side gently gingled a shining bunch of keys, prepared for the morning meal, by spreading a snowy cloth upon an ancient oaken table, with the polish of which scarcely could the mirror contend.

Geoffrey was still abed. The damfel withdrew: it was doubtless to arouse her lord. Meanwhile we admired the neatness of the
apart-

apartment, where Chaucer undisturbedly composed his lays. We looked out of the windows, and surveyed the rich foliage of the neighbouring groves, through the devious paths of which was Dan Geoffrey wont to wander. At length he made his appearance, and with an air of courtesy and respect, gave us welcome to the bowers of Woodstock.

The board was quickly loaded with invigorating viands, and witty discourse went round. Breakfast

concluded, the bard, at my desire, recited some fragments of a yet unfinished lay, the title of which was, "The House of Fame."

Our attention was not ill bestowed; the production was excellent, and the Black Prince, who loved to give merit its due praise, was the foremost to applaud the invention and the skill which Chaucer had displayed in that diverting and instructive poem. Yet he could not help observing that, in some parts, the lines were incorrect as to metre; a fault which, my lord of

Marche,

Marche, lies still unremedied, as
you and I of late took notice, when
perusing the work together.

From the mention of the House
of Fame, we were led to inform
Chaucer of our intended expedi-
tion. He commended our design,
and, on my making the proposal,
most willingly consented to ac-
company us. For Chaucer had
never been in Wales, and his incli-
nation to visit that romantic prin-
cipality, and be present at the
tournament at the castle of Car-

narvon, was in no wise inferior to ours. Accordingly he commanded his best palfrey to be made ready. While this was performing, we looked over a collection of volumes, which, being ranged with regularity on shelves, and clad in vellum, were equally of use and ornament in the parlour of the poet. There lay invaluable copies of histories (transcribed with great art and beauty) which treated of the exploits of the ancient Greeks and Romans, many Saxon poems also, many ballads of the Troubadours ;

dours; the novels of his cotemporary Giovanni Bocaccio, and the incomparable sonnets of the celebrated Petrarch. These two writers were personally known to Geoffrey, who in his travels had met them at the courts of the Italian princes. Of books of chivalry he possessed a precious store. Owen Glendower searched eagerly for the history of king Arthur, affirming with a loud voice, and with vigorous gesture, that no hero of antiquity, or of modern days, could
be

be justly compared to the British worthy.

By this time the palfrey of the poet was at the door. We remount our courfers, and with augmented alacrity pursue the road to Stratford. Not far from the banks of the Avon, we espied a horseman, spurring towards us with prodigious speed. At a nearer approach we could perceive that terror was imprinted on his countenance. For the sake of holy God, noble warriors, exclaimed he, hasten, Oh! hasten

hasten to the castle in yonder wood, and save the life of an aged baron, whom six caitiffs have threatened with immediate destruction: even now they are forcing the inner gate. At the word, we followed him, and were soon near the precincts of the castle. We flew to the draw-bridge, which, at a signal from our guide, was lowered, and entering the inner court, beheld the six ruffians maltreating an old man, who by his mien and attire appeared a person of dignity. The

Black

Black Prince in a haughty tone commanded them to desist, which they refusing, we drew our falchions and advanced upon them. Abandoning their prey, they stood upon the defensive with their swords and partisans. And now a hideous carnage of these caitiffs would have ensued, had not our ears been assailed by the voice of an aged female, which tremulously issued from the next tower. She besought us, for the love of Heaven, to have mercy on those invaders, one of whom was no other than

than the lord Ferdinand Fitzwarrenne, the youthful heir apparent of a very noble family.

On receiving this intelligence, we sheathe our weapons, and demand of the baron, who stood trembling at the idea of the peril he had escaped, what cause could have incited the lord Ferdinand Fitzwarrenne to a conduct which appeared so unknighly and outrageous. The baron replied, that, if we would follow him into the castle, he would unfold to us the meaning

meaning of this extraordinary proceeding. But first, added he, it is necessary to secure these prisoners. Whereupon they were ordered to be confined in a strong tower. Previous to their imprisonment, we commanded them to lift up their vizors. Five were of the vulgar: the sixth was a youth, whose ingenuous and noble visage denoted him to be the person of whom that aged dame had spoken.

This done, we accompanied the lord of the castle, who led us into
a spacious

a spacious and magnificent chamber, where, having expressed his gratitude for the succour we had afforded him, he accosted us in these words: I was scarce returned from our wars upon the continent, where I had served with some renown under our martial monarch Edward, than it was my misfortune (for some fin of mine, I suppose) to become guardian to a rich and youthful heiress, the lady Barbarina, of an ancient and august house. Since that ill-fated hour, I have known no ease. My days
are

are disturbed with the presumptuous pretensions of the indigent and the vain, my nights with meditation on the means of disappointing them. Raw striplings, who have scarce learnt to buckle on their hauberks ; vain-glorious adventurers, whose sole recommendation (if any it can be) is that they have seen the Holy Land, and who possess not as much estate as even their targets can cover ; giddy knights, who have diced away their patrimonies, or spent them in the stews ; minions

nions of the court, who deem that gallant raiment and a stately port will dazzle me into consent; men also of remote ancestry, who assail me with genealogies, and escutcheons of twenty quarters; others again, who annoy me with nice language, and with verses, as if a rhyme should seduce me from my vigilance; [here Chaucer smiled] all these, and many more, beset me continually. Nevertheless, I listen not to their suit.

In

In fine, I have more disquiet from Barbarina herself, than from all this host of lovers. She complains that I keep her from the sight of men, and that the bloom of her days will pass away undistinguished. Instead of that amiable desire of privacy, and that industrious disposition which signalized the damsels of the good old times, the lady Barbarina would lead an unprofitable life of pleasure. Is there a feast or a ball at any castle? She must go; a tournament to be solemnized? She weeps to be at the

the spectacle. And all this, without doubt, but to afford an opportunity to some audacious pretender to make encomiums on her beauty, and perhaps to convey her away from me, her unhappy guardian.

It was but fix weeks ago that I surprized a tall knight, in a shabby suit of armour, on his knees to her in a grove which is adjoining to this castle, where I suffered her to walk with an aged female attendant, the same who addressed you from the spike-hole of the tower.

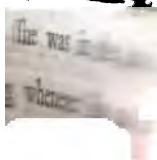
I retired behind a tree, with intent to lie concealed till he should conclude an oration, which endured, it is my opinion, for an hour and a quarter. At length, out of patience with his business and his speech, I started from my retreat, and interrupted him at the very moment when he was calling her *divine instance of ravishing perfection!* I conducted the divinity instantaneously to the castle, and confined her attendant to the tower already mentioned, for having thus abused the confidence I had so fatally reposed in her.

Indeed,

Indeed, some time before, I had cause to suspect her of infidelity. For one evening, about twilight, as I was riding to a neighbouring castle, I met this aged dame upon a palfrey. Perceiving her to be embarrassed with the inquiry which I made concerning her excursion at that unseasonable hour, I was tempted to examine a bundle which lay partly concealed underneath an immense petticoat which she was in the habit of wearing whenever she took the air. In this bundle were books of

chivalry; such as Palmeria of England, the Knight of the Oracle, and he of the Silver Spurs, with others of the like nature; all which the perfidious beldame had borrowed from a Benedictine at a neighbouring monastery. For the lady Barbarina, instead of embroidering curtains, and composing tapestry of patch-work, after the manner of the discreet and virtuous maidens of past times, betook herself intensely to the perusal of these histories; insomuch, that she imagined that some Tristram, or
Sir

some time before, I had
suspect her of immor-
r one evening, about 18-
I was riding to a neigh-
castle, I met this age-
man a pastry. Perceive
he embraced with
which I made con-
viction at that moment
was tempted to come
which by party, 18-
with an image.



to pass this
lamentations,
castle, and, in
th him on the
ed, to the court
indulgent king,
remedy for this
the room of the
I instantly impris-
ed me an usher
years and five, in
ty of countenance
white beard, I con-
ht look for a more in-

52 A D V E N T U R E S O F
flexible Argus to the lady Bar-
barina.

But alas! how deceitful are often
our wisest measures! If the dame,
from an ill-judged commiseration
for my ward, or from that spirit of
intrigue which is so common to
her condition, had been induced to
betray the precious trust I had re-
posed in her, this hoary-bearded
usher, from the thirst of gold,
proved, ere many months were
over, more destructively unfaithful.
For he contrived (without doubt,
for

for a considerable bribe) to introduce to Barbarina that audacious young knight who is one of the six persons whom ye just now have vanquished. As my ward had been addicted to going frequently to mass, and to confession, at the church of a convent in the vicinage, (I with confession were abolished; it furnishes more occasion to the damning of young souls, than ever it contributes to their salvation) I imagined, upon her earnest remonstrance, that I might venture to confide her to the care

of this old usher, whose gravity would not fail to excite her veneration, while the severity of his vigilance would ensure to me her safety.

Such, noble warriors, was the situation of things, when, one day, at the convent, the lord Ferdinand Fitzwarrenne was admitted by the false usher to an interview with the restless and imprudent Barbarina. A reciprocal passion, I suppose, ensued: for ere long the youthful knight came in form to
this

this castle, and demanded my ward in marriage. Nevertheless I repulsed his suit; for, whatever the Fitzwarrenne race might have to boast of in genealogy, I considered them, in point of wealth, as an inconsiderable alliance.

Enraged at this disappointment, inflamed with double love, the lord Fitzwarrenne was determined on revenge, and, if possible, on victory. Having, therefore, procured intelligence from the ungrateful and perfidious usher, that

on a certain day (even this inauspicious day) my followers were to be absent on a particular service, he, at the head of some retainers, surprized my castle gates, and would indubitably have effected his felonious design, but for the timely and valorous aid which you, redoubted warriors, afforded my feeble age in the very instant of extremity.

Here the baron concluded, when (wonderful to think!) a voice from——But it is time that my
vifit

visit should have an end. Farewel, for the present, cousin Mortimer. To-morrow I will not forget thee. This said, the duke of Lancaster retired.

V I S I T VI.

EARLY on the ensuing day the duke failed not to be at the bed-side of the impatient earl of Marche, who, without waiting for salutation, cried, My lord duke of Lancaster, you left off at the strange voice. It is true, replied the good old warrior. Well: a voice from an adjoining closet thus addressed us through the

the key-hole: Beware, noble strangers, how you place your belief in the words of that deceitful baron. It is he who is the hoary impostor. Know that I, wretched captive for the sole crime of love, (if to love be indeed a crime) am that youthful Barbarina, whose inoffensive life and manners have been so untruly delineated. [Here the baron, now wroth, was about to command the lady to be silent, but we, with an authoritative air, forbade him.] I have listened alike with indignation and

surprize to the calumnies with which he hath aspersed my virgin honour. That I have beheld the lord Ferdinand with partial eyes, I am not unwilling to confess. But the true motive, noble knights, of the persecution I have endured from that decrepid and malicious baron, was my averfion to give ear to his own absurd follicitations. For he, even he, hath professed himself my lover; not from any real affection to myself; my extensive domains were the sole object of his passion. For this cause
hath

hath he repulsed so many rich and noble suitors, debarred me from the customary recreations of my sex, imprisoned my attendant, and defamed my worthy usher.

The derision which he hath endeavoured (I will not say how ignobly) to cast upon my conduct, and upon that of my adorers, might, with much greater equity, be transferred to his own. Had you beheld, gallant warriors, the preposterous and silly modes in which that avaricious and infatuated

ated baron hath attempted to win my love, (or, more properly, my consent; for he cared not for my love) they would, unquestionably, have made ye merry. Often hath he fate whole hours [here the baron, whose frame now trembled with anger, would again have silenced the lady Barbarina; but the Black Prince insisted on allowing her a fair hearing] often, I say, hath he fate at the door of my chamber, and fighed through a crevice therein; expecting by such humility to melt my obdurate

obdurate bosom. Nevertheless, noble warriors, I attended to him not: nay, I laughed from my soul at the pains he took to win me. Frequently, as he prepared to make a speech to me in the great hall, it was my pastime to run up to the roof of one of the towers, (I young and nimble) whither he with difficulty essayed to pursue me; as the stair-case was narrow and winding, and the steps, which are of stone, sharp and rugged at the edges. Thence, by another passage, I escaped into the garden, where

where I generally fate to read some agreeable book of chivalry. This last was a bitter wound to his hopes. He hated those tender volumes ; he knew that they turned my attention towards objects of a gayer hue, than a covetous and ill-natured wooer in his grand climacteric.

But of all his attempts, as a lover, the most ridiculous was a song, which he himself had indited, and which he sung to me through his nose, one evening as

I fate

JOHN OF GAUNT. 65

I fate in an arbour. [Here the baron could scarce keep his seat; so violent was his rage against the lady Barbarina.] It was verily the most miserable of all compositions.

Thus it ran :

Ah! fairest Barbarina,

Ah! pity my chagrin—a;

For oh! thy tyrant pow'r

Doth my sick heart devour.

Ah! Barbarina, ah!

Now do, my dearest ward,

One favour me accord:

Oh! would it be much amiss

Thy youthful hand to kiss?

Ah! fairest Barbarina, &c.

Oh!

Oh! take it in thy head
Thy woful fwain to wed :
And then thy woful fwain
No longer will complain.
Ah! fairest, &c.

Thus was it composed of *Abs!*
and *Obs!* Not a single high flight,
nor even a metaphor, noble war-
riors, to sweeten it to the ears and
understanding of a lady.

In this situation of things, the
lord Ferdinand Fitzwarrenne, a
youth whose years and rank were
fully suitable to mine, and who
had

had seen me more than once at the monastery, at length let me know by the tenderest looks and sighs, that I had made upon his heart no inconsiderable impression. But, unsatisfied with the mere conversation of the eyes, he soon sought to discourse to me in a manner more explicit. Having seen and known my usher at the castle of a noble kinsman, (who, ignorant of the art of reading, had employed this old person to recite to him books of chivalry) he entreated him to suffer us to converse
in

in his presence, for a little time, when mass and confession should be over. The benevolent usher consented ; taking pity on my state, and esteeming the lord Ferdinand to be a lover better suited to my age and inclination, than that barbarous and silly baron.

The son of earl Fitzwarrenne swore eternal love and truth to me, in the presence of my usher, and of an image of the Holy Virgin, near which we had been conversing, and promised to demand
me

me in marriage without delay. That the baron refused him (good heavens! how unjustly) you, noble warriors, have been already informed. But the gallant lord Ferdinand, far from any design against the life of our oppressor, had only determined to release me from captivity, and convey me to the castle of the earl his father. There the nuptial knot was to have united us for ever. What issue hath attended the enterprize, you, noble knights, know alas! but too well. As for myself, no sooner had my lover
appeared

appeared with his armed followers at the gate, than I was confined to this apartment, from which I now address you.

Here the lady Barbarina concluded. With one voice we demanded her restoration to liberty. The baron with reluctance consented, and the key was delivered to the Black Prince. The door being now unlocked, there stepped forth a little damsel about seventeen years of age, who with a lively air saluted us, and in language

guage not inelegant revealed the grateful sense which she entertained of our benignity. Her person, though not transcendent, was nevertheless such as could boast of many charms. Though below the middle stature, she was exquisitely formed. With a complexion of the olive cast, and with black and sparkling eyes, she had teeth that emulated the whitest ivory, teeth that, from her natural propensity to laugh, were not unfrequently exhibited to the admiring beholder.

And now Chaucer, who commiserated this orphan heiress, accosted the aged baron as follows :
Even ere I was an ocular witness, noble lord, of the youth and the gaiety of the lady Barbarina, I could not but disapprove of the attachment you professed for her.
At present, when my eyes have an opportunity of contrasting the early bloom of her attractions with the fading state of yours, my astonishment, I confess, is redoubled, and both my heart and understanding are indignant at the disparity.

The lady Barbarina is of an exalted house: her father, the lord Willoughby, was not unknown to me: were he now alive, it would be his warmest inclination to ally his lovely daughter to such a youth as the lord Ferdinand, whose fire, earl Fitzwarrenne, is a baron of the first dignity, and whose age, and endowments, and known ardor for chivalry, proclaim him a just object of the affection of Barbarina.

He said, and was followed by the prince of Wales, who observed, that, as it was manifest that the baron and his ward could not, after what had passed, remain amicably together, it would in no wise be ineligible for the lady Barbarina and her noble lover to accompany him and the brave warriors, his companions, to the expected tournament at the castle of Carnarvon, where the former, under the protection of the countess of Salisbury, might tarry for a more favourable issue to this affair, while the latter

improved

improved himself in the profession of arms, and in all knightly virtues, amidst scenes of heroic valour and incomparable courtesy.

Thus spake my royal brother. We applauded the proposal, to which the baron, knowing our right to obtain it as a boon, in return for our late service, was necessitated to accede. Whereupon the lord Ferdinand was released from his imprisonment, and the lady Barbarina, overjoyed at this event, withdrew to her chamber,

the better to adjust her apparel for the journey. This being soon performed, (for the illustrious little heiress was all alacrity) we took leave of her disappointed, discontented guardian ; and, having seated Barbarina behind her exulting lover, (for the baron, in revenge, refused to accommodate her with a palfrey) pursued our former route to the town of Stratford-upon-Avon.

Now, valiant knights, cried
Chaucer, with a look of much
hilarity,

hilarity, you may each say, like Cæsar, *veni, vidi, vici*. And in a nobler cause, exclaimed the duke of Gloucester. Why a nobler? said I. For though it be a brave and splendid action to liberate a damsel from distress, an action to which every true knight will devote his valour, is it not yet greatness in a more illustrious degree to overthrow a mighty host, commanded by a martial sovereign, and to humble, by the fortune of a single battle, the accumulated grandeur of ages? There, there,

cried Owen Glendower, by that one word *fortune*, you have already tarnished the lustre of your favourite hero. For I assert, that Cæsar owed less to valour than to fortune. Now, what share hath fortune had in our late atchievement? By the sole vigour of the arm have we triumphed. And I, added the duke of Gloucester, maintain that it was a nobler cause, inasmuch as to relieve two dignified and virtuous lovers is a nobler deed than to defeat a potentate, to whose dominions Cæsar had no rightful claim.

claim. In his battle against Pharnaces, many thousands pressed the field, as victims to his vain-glory: ours was an unbloody victory. I adverted, replied I, to the magnitude of the objects; not to the motive or effect of the deeds on either side. No unreasonable remark, said Chaucer. You, my lord of Lancaster, have been arguing like an historian; his grace of Gloucester as a genuine son of chivalry.

During this our dialogue, the lord Ferdinand Fitzwarrenne, who, in courtesy, pretended to listen, nevertheless could not abstain, at sundry times, from looking back at the lady Barbarina. At length the prince of Wales entered into the discourse, and thus addressed us: Methought, contending chiefs, that the question of debate was at first about to be, whether Cæsar or Owen Glendower were the greater captain. [Here Owen, who had not perfectly cured himself at court of the habit of reddening and snorting,

snorting, when any thing was uttered that disturbed his vanity, was beginning to look fierce; but, recollecting that he was still in royal company, he prudently repressed his rising ire.] For my own part, continued the prince, I shall rest contented with that measure of applause which is justly proportioned to the nature of our conquest. Let the myrtle (since it was an adventure in which love was concerned) be our prize instead of the laurel. The lady Barbarina herself shall crown us,

E 5 (with

(with the leave of the lord Fitz-warrenne) with the first sufficient tree of myrtle that we espy. This proposal incited the little heirefs to laughter, compelling her thereby to display her teeth; a hardship at which she manifestly did not much repine.

While engaged in this dispute, we had unwittingly deviated into an extensive wood, where our ears were soon attracted by the voice of dulcet harmony. We rode up to the place from which the sounds seemed .

seemed to issue ; and there beheld a troop of damsels, who were exquisitely fair. They sate upon a shaded bank, which overhung a translucent rivulet. Beside them lay various viands ; also instruments of music, with which ever and anon they made the forest sweetly echo. We saluted them in courteous strain, which they returned by an invitation to partake of their repast. With this, cousin Mortimer, we willingly complied ; for the baron, when he perceived how our sentiments were inclined, had

most spitefully omitted to present us with refreshments: they gave us to drink of a certain delicious wine, of which they had three flaggons, and appeased our keen hunger with meats and confections of the most savoury composition.

Our banquet finished, the dam-
fels sung with a grace almost divine,
very skilfully accompanying their
voices with their instruments.
Then one of them, who was
named *Mirandora the delightful*,
accosted us in these words: You
must

must know, courteous strangers, that four of us are daughters to a venerable earl, who dwells in a castle near at hand, and that these other damsels are our kinswomen. We meet once a month (on this day, noble strangers) to improve ourselves in melody. Each of us can play well on some instrument of music; insomuch that we form a concert which is in no wise contemptible. Thus spake the damsel Mirandora.

By

By this time (strange to tell!) the delicious liquor that we had quaffed began to operate upon our senses in a new and unheard-of manner. But here, my lord of Marche, let me suspend awhile my narration. To-morrow, at the accustomed hour, I will revisit you.

V I S I T

V I S I T V M.

FRIAR HILDEBRAND

here relates, that the lord Edmond Mortimer, on the ensuing day, having cordially thanked the duke of Lancaster for his punctuality, testified in a courteous and courtly strain his admiration at the extraordinary strength of memory which enabled his noble kinsman to rehearse

hearse with such exactitude the adventures of his early days. This done, saith the reverend writer, the duke renewed his narration in the following words:

The wine which they had given us now affected our senses with a sudden and irresistible propensity to sleep. Without any previous dozing, and even without a nod, we sunk down upon the grassy bank, nor awoke but to admire at and lament our situation. For we found ourselves in a wilder and
more

more remote part of the forest, disarmed, and encompassed by a numerous crew of caitiffs, who informed us that we must repair to the pavilion of state, and be presented to the patriarch.

Conceive, illustrious Mortimer, our surprize, our indignation. We cursed in our hearts Mirandora *the delightful*, and her perfidious kinf-women. Nevertheless, as any endeavour to resist a band of robbers, unarmed and outnumbered, as now we were, would have borne more
resemblance

90 ADVENTURES OF

resemblance to insanity than to valour, we arose, and were conducted to a vast wooden edifice of a rude construction, which they called the pavilion of the patriarch. Around it, at a little distance, lay many other habitations, inferior in magnitude, and of meaner materials. They were of mud, thatched with rushes. Here dwelt a mixt multitude of knights and squires, dames, damsels, ushers, monks, and clergy secular: all these, like ourselves, had been trepanned. Beyond these were huts, on every quarter,

quarter, which formed a receptacle for the freebooters themselves, who, with vigilant watch and ward, alternately took care that none escaped from this captivity.

Ere long the patriarch, as they termed him, appeared: a robber full of days, and of no unvenerable aspect. He sat down in a great chair of straw-work: on either side stood a respectful row of caitiffs, who acknowledged him for their chieftain, and considered his commands as laws. His complexion
was

was yet fresh, his eyes brilliant ; while his beard, which was of a beauteous grey, grew unviolated by the sheers, overshadowing his bosom majestically. He saluted us with a courteous air, and in speech of no vulgar accent : for in the progress of his life he had conversed with much good company. At length he addressed us as follows : Illustrious knights, (for such ye seem to be, lament not that you are now in subjection to my authority. You behold in us no sanguinary freebooters : your persons
are

are here safe, and if you can but assimilate your inclination to ours, your condition shall be far from unhappy. Those knights and gentlewomen, who wander up and down within the precincts of this abode, were once travellers, like you ; but have wisely submitted with chearfulness to their lot, and now live with us in ease and unembittered felicity.

Mistake me not, I beseech you,
with respect to what I have uttered.
Ours, though we are but robbers,
is

is no brutal state of pleasure. Here all things are conducted with an enviable decorum: my followers obey me, as if one great family, of which I was the father and the prince. Any outrage, the most minute, would here be punished on the instant. For know, illustrious knights, that plunder alone is not our object: we seek it but as subservient to our great design, which is to travel through mortal life by the paths of innoxious pleasure; yet to banish irksome sameness by a well-devised variety. For this
end,

end, we employ those damsels, who so lately entertained you, to warble in the wood, as a decoy to the curious passenger. [Here, Mortimer, we looked at one another, and blushed for our disgrace.] Since the primary establishment of our empire in this forest, (which is yet but of recent date) we have succeeded not indifferently, as, doubtless, you perceived, as you approached this pavilion.

I am called, by way of eminence
and honour, the patriarch. It is
mine

mine to invent and regulate the diversions of the day; for here no day is suffered to pass away without diversions: our booty furnishes the feast; and the song and the dance are not forgotten. When the heavens are serene, we walk in these shady groves, or repose beneath some oak, or exercise our art in ensnaring the inhabitants of the air and of the water. But if clouds obscure the sky, and the inclemency of the season imprison us within doors, we assemble in this vast pavilion, where we saunter up and
down

down in separate parties to converse, or summon music to our aid, or form a silent circle around an ample fire, and listen to a reverend Carmelite, who can read, and who delights our eager ears by the recital of some volume, replete with wondrous magic, and with adventures of love and chivalry.

This too is our hall, where we partake of cheering viands. A messenger gives notice at the stated hour: but our principal banquet is a little before sunset. This

VOL. I. F over,

over, the musicians awake their various instruments, and the youthful stand forth for the dance. Meanwhile I sit by and observe them, or discourse with some whose age is not unsuitable to mine. Then it is that the graceful and the active display their abilities to please: nothing that is indecorous or unknightly is known amongst them: even if any were disposed to infringe the laws of decency, the sanction of my presence is sufficient to restrain them. At midnight (for I never indulge

I

them

them beyond that hour, having a fatherly regard for the health of the dames and damfels) they retire to their respective dwellings. For as soon as each arrives, and becomes a member of this community, a convenient cabin is erected for him or her, and none may interfere with the habitation of another.

In this manner, illustrious knights, we live. It is my recreation, my sole bliss, to be in constant society, to study the various cha-

F 2 racters

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acters that my followers bring in, and to enjoy a virtuous scene of unremitted festivity. My companions may be happy if they will: for them, as for myself, are my meditations employed in the providing for new enjoyments: all I ask of them, in return, is to be contented. To murmur in this retreat, is as unprofitable as it is ungrateful: they cannot depart from me; the barriers are insurmountable.

Thus

Thus spake this extraordinary caitiff. It was now near the time of fun-fetting, and the several individuals who composed this society had repaired from their huts to the pavilion. There the banquet awaited them. The patriarch being informed that the viands were served up, arose, and made a sign to us to follow him. We obeyed. As he entered the great hall, he received, with a gracious air, the congratulations of the many, on the valuable acquisition he had made in our captivity. He then

took his seat at the upper end of the table: the rest, with a polite unconcern, fate down as chance directed them. Chaucer and I were together. At my left hand was a Benedictine, of a pleasing aspect, and refined behaviour, who helped me to divers meats, and in a low voice acquainted me, from time to time, with the customs and institutes of the community. Either this ecclesiastic was content with his condition, or had deemed it the better policy to dissemble his chagrin; for, in appearance, he was
much

much at ease. The prince of Wales was seated between a proud old knight and an ostentatious lady, who alternately endeavoured to disclose their exalted breeding by well-measured expressions of condescending affability. The lady Barbarina was between two robbers, who successfully exerted their talents to entertain her; and, by the merry things they said, gave her ample opportunity to discover to the company that she had very fine teeth. The patriarch paid her many compliments occasionally.

Nevertheless the lord Fitzwarrenne, who had a monk on either side, appeared somewhat troubled in thought at the hilarity of her he loved. The duke of Gloucester and Owen Glendower were together. To the left of Owen sat a youthful knight, who, notwithstanding his efforts to subdue his sensations, was manifestly a man of grief. Beyond him was our brother of York.

The discourse had now become general. The patriarch diverted

us

us with many witty sayings, and made sapient observations on human life and manners. Meanwhile we were attended by a detachment of caitiffs, who with nimbleness and sedulity accommodated the members. For it was the rule amongst these robbers to wait on, or sit down with the society, in rotation. It was accounted no disgrace to perform the menial office, and regularity and respect were distinguishable in their demeanour. At length the viands are removed, and the fingers ushered in, when

we immediately recognize Miranda *the delightful*, and her pretended kinfwomen. As they entered the great hall, we, who were the last captives, felt a kind of confusion at the remembrance of what had happened, while they, as they passed onward, beheld us with an arch smile, which not a little contributed to increase our perturbation.

At a signal from the patriarch, Emergarda *the inimitable* took a lute, and accompanied her voice ;
singing

singing with a degree of sensibility and expression that enraptured the whole audience. After some short interval, Ethelinda *of the pleasant eyes* bowed gracefully to the circle, and sung a lively air, the witty words of which were the composition of a caitiff. It was received with delight and applause. The patriarch then addressed himself to a corpulent Dominican with little grey eyes, and a visage not ungrecasy, and besought him to gratify us with the joyous Dithyrambick which a few days

before he had indited and performed. The friar, without waiting for a second application, quaffed a large cup of Canary, and with a comic countenance and gesture, displayed his vocal acquirements.

The Dithyrambick of the Dominican added much to our entertainment. More canticles were called for ; more Canary. The patriarch, as grand director, solicited a prim lady, who sat near the duke of York, and who would not be diverted by him, to exhilarate

rate the society with a sample of her powers. She was a maiden of forty-three, of a slender habit of body, and an uncheerful complexion. She had never yet, since her captivity, vouchsafed to contribute to the merriment of her companions. Therefore did the patriarch attempt her for a song. After causing much irksome expectation, (for the virgin was dilatory) at length, gazing stedfastly at the wall, and with a wild look and a loud and quivering tone, she broke forth into a pastoral ditty.

This

This damsel had no sooner ended, than a general inclination to laughter pervaded us: nor could the patriarch, notwithstanding the grave aspect he assumed, without difficulty confine us to order. The Black Prince subdued a smile: the duke of Gloucester turned up his eyes, (which, doubtless, was somewhat unknighly) while the lady Barbarina tittered outright, but, luckily, escaped the observation of the songstress.

Thus

Thus much, my lord of Marche,
shall suffice us for this day! Expect
to hear to-morrow the continua-
tion of what happened to us in the
dominions of the patriarch.

VISIT

V I S I T V I I I .

AND now, said the duke of Lancaster at his next visit, the tables were removed, and a row of lofty tapers illuminated the hall. The merry harp and dulcimer invited us to the dance ; knights, robbers, and even ecclesiastics selected each a partner, all forming an
extensive

extensive and splendid line from end to end of the pavilion.

The Black Prince and I (there being a scarcity of ladies) preferred sitting down by the patriarch, who described to us in these words the various characters of the assembly: You perceive the person who dances with the lady Altifidora; that is Sir Hubert, of a noble house in Norfolk. He is here styled, *the modest knight who affects to be immodest*. Diffident by nature, yet not beyond what is commendable,
he

he hath encouraged the opinion that he shall arrive at fame, and succeed in the general favour, by the reverse of this good quality.

It diverts me not a little, to behold an ingenuous young man endeavouring to banish the blush of virtue from his face ; or, what is still more laughable, attempting, with a countenance occasionally suffused with scarlet, to assume that cool and genuine impudence, which is unvarying, inveterate, incurable.

You cannot offer to Sir Hubert a more grateful kind of flattery, than

to

to pretend to confider him as a shameless fellow. Employ him in any business that may require effrontery, and you bind him to your interests for ever. So numerous, my children, (for this caitiff called us *'bis children'*) are the habits and disguises in which Vanity petitions the world to take notice of her.

The next, continued he, that seems worthy of your observation, is friar Matthew, an Augustine, now dancing with dame Eleanor.

He

He is but lately out of his novice, and pants for the prize of elegance, particularly in language. For this purpose he hath laboured considerably, but, alas! to little effect. He reads much, which, without diminishing his ignorance, hath augmented his presumption. He hath every grammar and vocabulary by heart; yet is ever sinning against propriety of speech, and violating the dignity of the English tongue. So ardent is his pursuit of purity in style, that he earnestly beseeches those who have the character

racter of eminence, to correct him when he shall be guilty of unlawful grammar. Nevertheless he hates the very person who corrects him ; but would not have it thought so, lest it subject him to ridicule. It is not, however, difficult to discover his vexation, by the spiteful reflections he frequently throws out, in a sly and covert manner, when opportunity presents itself. Thus doth there exist an incessant strife between his pride and his ambition, between his grief at being necessitated to apply
for

for information, and his untameable desire of brilliancy and renown.

In the next couple but one stands Sir Humphrey de Waverley, better known in these abodes by the appellation of *the knight who affects to be unaffected*. Sir Humphrey is of an ancient house, and a person of a valiant mind; but, finding that affectation was accounted a defect which obscured, or at least distorted the most admirable virtues, he hath determined

mined to pass through life with an unparalleled simplicity. For instance; if he dances, (as at this moment you may remark) instead of moving his members with that gracefulness and spirit which constitute good dancing, he affects to go down the line in an awkward and insipid gait, and with a countenance expressive of no meaning whatsoever. When he walks, it is with equal humility. On horseback, instead of sitting erect and firm, as other knights are wont, he totters from side to side, like a baker,

baker, his legs dangling after the manner of the meaner sort, and his head wagging in such wise, that one is often in fear lest his helmet drop off. As to his lance, he carries it as a peasant doth a pitchfork. In discourse, he miscalls both things and persons, mispronounces words, and violates all mood, and gender, and declension; intending thereby to avoid the affectation of purity; being, in this, the very reverse of friar Matthew. And all this he doth through the desire of appearing a mild,

mild, unaffected, unassuming character.

You see yonder, continued the patriarch, an elderly person in grave apparel, who dances discontentedly, and pays little heed to his partner, who is the purse-proud relict of a Bristol merchant. That, my children, is a man of law, a jealous-headed serjeant, who beholds with an eye of apprehension and hatred the increasing merits of his juvenile competitors. It is with double satisfaction that

VOL. I. G I keep

I keep him here; since every hour that he spends in this forest is a brief or a reference irretrievably lost to him. I verily hope that business will pass away into other hands. He rails without ceasing at the juniors of his profession, by reason of a new and compendious method of acquiring legal knowledge, the celebrated compilation of a learned and worthy judge. For he is sorely afflicted that those avenues should be smoothed, and rendered even delicious to the rising generation, through which
he

he and his predecessors have journeyed with much difficulty.

Observe, continued he, that turbulent and brazen damsel, who now dances down the line at a little distance from Sir Humphrey, and who twirls from time to time the astonished Carmelite her partner. She, illustrious knights, is the lady Hermundura, of an ancient and august house; an undeniable, and indeed to her partner, an alarming instance, that vulgarity and discourteousness may dwell

within the bosom of one nobly born; and that dignity of birth is not, as a thing of course, accompanied by dignity of mind and manners. That brandishing of the right arm appears as if she were accustomed to wield a battle-axe: that countenance unabashed, that darting forward of the head, and rapid motion of it from shoulder to shoulder, should better become a dairy-wench than the daughter of a great baron. Nevertheless, it was but yesterday that I overheard a knight addressing her
with

with the words *celestial excellence!*
 For the lady Hermundura is an
 heiress.

You cannot, Sirs, but have noticed a well-proportioned knight, who occasionally flaps his foot against the floor, and jerks his knee, until the calf of his leg truly quivers with the exertion. Now that is what they call being *mighty strong—damnably well built—and even active withal*. When he stands, it is astride; thereby exhibiting, nay, forcing into view,

the firmness and muscularity of his thigh. You, doubtless, perceive him looking down ever and anon, to snatch a brief observation of the propriety of his members. For Sir Marmaduke (thus he is titled) accounts himself a marvelously striking personage; one, on whom any heiress might set a value: peradventure the lady Hermandura herself may, in time, be tempted to think tenderly about him. But let me not forget to point out to your admiration the adorable damsel with whom he dances.

dances. The daughter of a squire, she possesses a nobleness of soul and mien, which might become the consort of a sovereign.

Not far from these is a conceited squire, who professes to have seen the world, and to know mankind, on the strength of having lain three nights at Antwerp, and bought a pair of breeches at Bruges. A squire, moreover, who, from possessing a few volumes, which lie scattered continually around his chamber, would fain pass for a

person of a just taste in literature, and an intimate acquaintance with productions of great fame. He is perpetually reminding us of his affection for his books. *It is written in a blank leaf of my Amadis de Gaul—I have taken a memorandum of it in my Don Belianis—Did you see my Sir Bevis of Southampton any where?* These, illustrious knights, are his never-neglected phrases. And from all this you might be led to imagine that he was a person deeply read. But, alas! the shallow squire is so innocent

innocent of real taste and sound judgment in these matters, that were you to require him to point out the peculiar merits of any one of his beloved authors, you would puzzle and incommode him to the utmost degree. For by the mere aid of memory, he hath collected a stock of scraps, which he deals about affectedly; thus deeming himself witty by retailing the wit of others, and a man of profound judgment by adopted observations.

With respect to his knowledge of the world, his daily practice is a proof that few men have so little. None can bear testimony that he ever doth an action which speaks him to have an insight into the heart of man ; for in this last qualification consists the knowledge of the world, and not in having ambled over a portion of Christendom. That strange motion with his elbows he asserts he learnt in Picardy ; for he affects to be the flower of elegance, the very Phoenix of delicate improvement. In fine,
a squire

a squire who, having herded with fools and profligates, hath stored up a set of notions as impious as they are absurd, which he broaches without shame, and by which he professes to regulate his life and his belief. And in this, illustrious knights, he is not only an object of aversion, but likewise of contempt; for mediocrity of intellect is the source of this depravity.

These principles, my children, and this deplorable vanity, are more perilous by far, and more

destructive to society, than the spurious effrontery of Sir Hubert, or the affected unaffectedness of Sir Humphrey de Waverley. For (although I am but a robber that say it, Heaven help me!) a manly and sincere attachment to the revealed will of God, and to the ineffable sanctity of the Christian dispensation, will insensibly give birth to solid virtue in the heart, to true vigour in the understanding; while the contrary inclination will inevitably bring forth a pestiferous crop of imbecillity and worth-

worthlessness; will alienate the affection, and incur the contempt of all whose regard or applause are worth desiring.

Here the patriarch concluded his discourse. Our curiosity was excited to learn from what cause this extraordinary old man had made choice of a mode of life so dissimilar from that to which his manners and information seemed so justly to have entitled him. The remark (though perhaps not a new one) with which he

he finished his description of the conceited squire, gave particular satisfaction to the prince of Wales, who detested from his heart, and discountenanced in his character of Heir-apparent, those disturbers of the peace and prosperity of human-kind, who, wandering from their native kingdom with but little understanding, and collecting in foreign countries opinions derogatory to the religion of the Redeemer; opinions which they receive through ignorance, and persevere in from vanity; return at
length

length to enjoy the admiration of their countrymen, (which they have modesty to expect) and to cure them, with wit, of the superstition of their forefathers.

The Black Prince hath often said, that he wished his royal father could issue the writ of *ne exeat regnum* against all who could not produce, from the ordinary of their diocese, a certificate of their possessing a respectable capacity.

And

And now the prince, first apologizing for the freedom he was taking, asked the holy-headed patriarch what had urged him to pursue the profession of a robber, and why he differed so materially in the disposal of the spoil from others of the same vocation? Whereupon the patriarch, having mused awhile, as if for recollection, addressed us in the following words:—But behold, it is now a fit time that I should cease. Adieu, my lord of Marche, until to-morrow.

V I S I T

V I S I T IX.

ON the ensuing day, the noble duke of Lancaster found his valorous kinsman, the lord Edmond Mortimer, sitting up in bed, impatient to hear the history of the caitiff. Whereupon, without further delay, the kind duke thus continued his narration: Whether, said

said the patriarch, there be a destiny which attends the lives of men, or whether the Ruler of all things takes direction of our being from the first dawn of infancy to the period of dissolution, I never yet could thoroughly decide. I must not say it was the will of Heaven that I should subsist by depredation: it were a notion unworthy of the Maker and of the man. But this I must avow, that, ever from my boyish days, I felt a powerful propensity to an extravagant course of life.

I am

I am here styled the patriarch.
My real name is Raymond *of the
bushy beard*. I am a younger son
of an opulent and dignified family,
and was early sent to Oxford to
adorn my mind with Latin. But
there, illustrious knights, instead
of wasting my nocturnal oil in the
perusal of ancient writers, my vigils
were directed to objects of another
hue. I drank, I diced, I wenched,
I rioted: the little that I did read
was in books of recreation, and
romances which I borrowed from
our academical repository. My
chambers

chambers became the refuge of the joyous and the idle. I feasted harlots: I hired poor monks to sing and play for us; nor (to my shame I tell it) would I commune with my confessor, till he had previously diverted me with some irreligious madrigal.

But my predominant and insurmountable passion was for gaming. The dice-box was rarely from my hands: my roof resounded with my acclamations when I won, and with my curses when I proved
unfuc-

unsuccessful. At length tidings of my enormities reached the ears of my relations, and a legion of peevish aunts and of supercilious uncles made a vigorous remonstrance to my father Sir Audemar. My debts were therefore discharged, (for my pittance, as a younger brother, had proved inadequate to my festivity) and an injunction was sent down that I should prepare myself incontinently to settle in the world. Whereupon I bethought me of the wars, and of the knightly occupation; for

for at that time our mighty and glorious monarch, Edward *Longshanks* *, was subduing the Welchmen in the mountains of Snowden, and I would fain have carried arms under a commander so invincible.

Nevertheless, there being a living in the family, it was determined by my kindred that I should embrace holy orders. Gracious Heaven! it is no wonder that thy

* Edward the First, so called.

altars are ill served, when the sacred function of the priesthood is converted into a provision for younger children, how unfit for it soever they may be. And here, illustrious knights, I cannot avoid remarking, that, in general, the most ignorant and the most profligate of my contemporaries were draughted into the church: whether indeed it was, that they repented them betimes, and intended to atone for past faults by future piety; or whether, as in my case, there were *livings in their families.*

I was

I was accordingly ordained, and soon after took possession of a rectory of great value. But ere six months had passed away, my conduct proved so unclerical, my dissipation, my neglect of duties, (except that of taking tithe, which I performed with unprecedented accuracy) and the immoral example which I afforded the inferior clergy became so alarming, that my offended flock preferred complaints against me; and the bishop, after divers ineffectual admonitions, declared that he would dis-

miss me from the cure of souls.
In fine, I was removed from my
benefice.

My kindred, enraged at my depravity and my disgrace, (for which they themselves were not a little to blame, having hurried me into the sacerdotal line of life, when they knew that I was voluptuously given) my kindred, I say, refused to behold me, or supply me with the means of continuing a course of pleasure. I was thereupon necessitated to consider of my sup-

VOL. I. H port.

port. How am I to exist? said I within myself; I who have been nurtured in the soft lap of luxury, who, at the plentiful and exquisite repasts of Sir Audemar, have feasted like a very abbot, cannot, now that my palate is formed, submit to the more temperate and more modest fare, to which others, whose families are less august than mine, have been early and wisely habituated.

It would have wounded my pride to remain in my native country,

country, in a situation subordinate to that from which I had fallen. In obedience to this sentiment, I journeyed to Dover, and took shipping for the continent. On my arrival at Calais, I abandoned my religious garb, assuming the gesture and apparel of a knight, and mixing ever and anon in the society of young Englishmen of feeble understandings and opulent remittances, a good portion of which last I, by virtue of the dice-box, conveyed into my coffers. Thus, Sirs, was I enabled

to maintain a gallant shew, and to swim in the gulph of sensuality.

In this manner I made shift to visit France and Italy, the Netherlands, and part of the German Empire: insomuch, that I became, in some measure, the director of all rich and giddy knights and squires, who were improving themselves by travel. But Fortune at length grew perfidious, or repented of the partiality with which she had beheld me. For
an

an inconsiderate young baron, of an ancient and splendid house, and to whom I was *shewing life* at Toulouse, having lost, under my care, a considerable sum of money, his friends and kinsmen, who were numerous and potent, were determined to pursue me with unre-mitted animosity. Of this I had seasonable advice, and accordingly prepared for a retreat, by laying aside my knightly habiliments, and resuming the raiment of an ecclesiastic. I left Toulouse in the dead of night, and took the road

Lyons. I had there some slight acquaintance with a certain knight Sir Clovis, a native of that city; a man of a mild temper, large revenue, and infirm habit of body. He was likewise unmarried. One female relation, an aged grandmother, dwelt with him. I informed him that, from the innate solemnity of my spirit, and an incredible predilection for regularity of life, which, alas! the turbulence of the knightly profession had hitherto prevented me from enjoying, I had taken sacred orders, and

and now meant with fervour to devote myself to piety.

The good Sir Clovis, with unsuspecting simplicity, gave belief to this tale, and considered me as one who was conscientiously withdrawing from the worldly ways of men to an honourable and well-employed retirement. Impressed with this idea, he strenuously besought me to partake of his society, and become, as it were, a member of his family. Delighted in secret with a proposal

H 4 of

of this nature, I nevertheless affected to hesitate, and hinted an apprehension of incommoding his domestic state, but soon suffered myself to be over-ruled by his hospitable intreaties. I migrated therefore to his dwelling without delay. And now no day elapsed without my making some advances in the good opinion and confidence of my generous host. I talked with him, read to him, and, on Sundays, prayed by his elbow-chair. From these offices I proceeded to the collection of his rents, and the regulation

gulation of his tenantry. Nothing was undertaken without a *fiat* from me. I became, ere long, overbearing and dictatorial; chastised the domestics, thwarted his grandmother, and bitterly domineered within the mansion of Sir Clovis.

At length, to disappoint me a second time, my evil fortune would have it, that a brother from the Holy Land should arrive at Lyons, and take up his abode with my benevolent patron. He was a per-

son of an acute cast of mind, and endued with a penetration as inconvenient to others as it was serviceable to himself. For he had not been two days amongst us, when he began to take note of me with an inquiring eye, and to harbour some suspicions that were unfavourable to my glory. Add to this, that the domestic discontents which I had caused were now laid before him, and confirmed him in the notion that I was a very great knave. It was proved against me (to the grand

astonishment of the worthy Sir Clovis) that I had embezzled his revenues, and, at times, introduced an harlot into the house, beneath the habiliments of a capuchin. It was therefore resolved on that I should depart. And, notwithstanding my ingratitude, and even my dishonesty, the humane knight my patron presented me with a sum of money, lest pressing need should prompt me to become still more flagitious.

I quitted Lyons privately, cursing my unkind stars, and the shrewd brother from the Holy Land. I was thus again driven back into the arms of Frugality. Yet, even as a votary to her, my stock of wealth, which was inconsiderable, began at length to melt away. Whither shall I turn now? exclaimed I, deeply sighing.—Hah! have I not heard it said, that, notwithstanding the rigid rules and constitutions of their order, they drink of the cup of pleasure in the sanctified monasteries? I will try the refectory

tory for a little, continued I. My brow cleared up as I was indulging this idea : I forsook once more my habit of an ecclesiastic ; and in the character of an unhappy merchant, whose reiterated losses, by vessels cast away, and by the faithlessness of traders, had disgusted him with the world, presented myself at an abbey of Benedictines in Dauphiny. They admitted me without much hesitation, and I entered upon my noviciate with the hope of enjoying, in a peaceful way, a seducing variety

ariety of all that could prove delicious to the palate of man.

But alas! illustrious knights, often, very often are our prospects obscured, where we sanguinely expected uninterrupted serenity. This

lamentably experienced at the abbey of Benedictines. Instead of those symposiums, and Epicurean pasts, at which I had fondly doted in my fervid imagination, the rules of this holy order were, with respect to us novices, observed their original rigour. Meanwhile

while the professed fathers not a little relaxed the severity of discipline with relation to themselves. Each day there was a banquet in the chambers of the lord Abbot, of which the rest of the seniors were partakers ; a banquet which might have vied with the carousals of royalty.

I was now in the condition of the damned. Even Tantalus of old could have been scarcely more tormented. For the food of the novices was of the simplest and
coardest

coarcest kind. Instead of venison and ortolans, we had pulse and barley bread; instead of sack and Burgundy, our beverage was small beer.

But this, illustrious nobles, was not all. The numerous and dismal duties of the monastic vocation were as irksome as they were indispensable. The little slumber that I was permitted to enjoy, was disturbed by the matin bell. The superintendant of the novices, who lay in the same dormitory, awoke

us

us with the accents of a Cyclops, taking note of the alertness or inactivity of each, in order that the same might be reported to the Superior. In fine, I hated matins, and was not well-affected to vespers.

To augment my vexation, it was necessary that we should arise at dead of night, and whip our naked members, as a mortification at once to the body and to the soul. I was now in despair. Is it then come to this? exclaimed I;
must

must flagellation be superadded to the penance of scanty fare? Ah! was it to afflict my flesh, and curb my carnal desires, that I fled to this abode, which I deemed to be the temple of deliciousness and repose? Thus I mourned. But to mourning I did not confine myself: I pondered likewise on a remedy. As these midnight castigations were performed in utter darkness, I imagined that by scourging the wall in the place of my own flesh, I might not only be relieved from pain, but even impress

impress the superintendant with a respectable opinion of my penitentiary rigours. For to me this cruel exercise was doubly overcoming; inasmuch as my frame, having been delicately nurtured from my infant years, was less able to submit to these inclement institutions, than the brawny and robust limbs of my more lowly born associates, many of whom were the progeny of ploughmen and blacksmiths, and other persons of mean parentage.

For

For these reasons, illustrious knights, when next the hour of discipline was announced, I laid such blows upon the wall, groaning ever and anon, that the superintendant thought verily that the blessed saints had wrought a speedy change within me, which occasioned him to make honourable report of me to the Superior.

By ill luck, that ever pursued me, a novice in a neighbouring bed, who had heard with some astonishment the vigorous blows I gave,

gave, and the pitiable groans I uttered, was induced to suspect that there was some fallacy in the affair. Whereupon, either through envy, or to make a merit of the discovery in the eyes of the superintendant, he unburthened to him his suspicions. The latter, vexed to be thus imposed on by a novice, took proper measures to detect me. No sooner then had the hour of castigation arrived, and the dormitory begun to echo with my fictitious austerities, than the superintendant, with a lighted taper, unexpectedly appeared

appeared before me. Wrath and indignation were in his eyes, confusion and dismay in mine. My frock too being then about me, was alone a sufficient proof that my feverities had been unreal: yet, in order to place the matter beyond doubt or contradiction, I was straightway commanded to strip, and no welts or bloody tokens being visible upon my body, the deceit and mockery were adjudged to be incontrovertible.

Accordingly,

Accordingly, I received a severe reprimand, and was exhorted to beware how I offended so a second time. Here, illustrious knights, there was again room for meditation, and for artifice. As the superintendant had declared that he would in future inspect my body, it now became necessary to exhibit certain marks of my having duly and plentifully submitted to the discipline. I therefore procured some blood of a slaughtered mutton, which I kept in a liquified state, and two whips, with one of which

which I, as usual, lashed the wall, and with the other (after smearing the thongs of it with the blood) inflicted ever and anon, and with a gentler hand, a few strokes upon my skin, which, ere long, seemed to have suffered the sincerest flagellation.

And here, illustrious nobles, you will doubtless admire that I employed not my ingenuity in effecting an escape, rather than in deceiving the superiors of the monastery. But the hope of succeeding,

succeeding, when my noviciate
 should expire, to the right of living
 in indolence and luxury, like these
 fathers, the right of neglecting
 matins and nocturnal castigation,
 and of being kept up to supper in
 the chambers of the lord Abbot,
 supported my drooping soul, and
 determined me to endure, or, if
 possible, elude the hardships of my
 condition. For a week, then, my
 stratagem had the desired success.
 But, unfortunately for me, it was
 an invariable custom, and indeed
 a humane one, that the monk

VOL. I. I who

who officiated as physician to the fraternity, should attend in the dormitory at stated periods, for the purpose of applying balsam and other healing preparations to the flesh of the disciplinarians. It was then that my malversations were a second time revealed to the eyes of the superintendant. My guilt (as it was deemed) was declared to be too enormous to admit of pardon. A complaint in form was preferred against me, and Raymond reported to the Superior of the society, as a novice who was
eminently

JOHN OF GAUNT. 171

eminently flagitious and incorrigible.

The lord Abbot commanded—
But, cousin Mortimer, I fear that
I have exceeded my usual time.
Farewell; compose yourself. To-
morrow you shall be told what the
Abbot said to Raymond. Thus
spoke the duke of Lancaster, and
forthwith retired.

VISIT X.

FRIAR HILDEBRAND relates, in the tenth visit, that the lord Edmond Mortimer, being somewhat impatient to hear the sequel of the history of the patriarch, dispatched a nimble messenger to John of Gaunt, an hour before the customary time of meeting,

meeting, in order to hasten that benevolent historian.

The duke of Lancaster being come and seated, continued his narration as follows: The lord Abbot, said the patriarch, commanded that I should be brought into his presence. I shall never forget his presence. An overgrown body, swollen with wine and venison, and which two fore legs could with difficulty sustain, together with a violet-coloured visage of an unnatural diameter,

orbicular, carbuncled, and surmounted with snowy hair, may give you no faint idea of this voluptuous ecclesiastic. He was, illustrious knights, the very high-priest of Intemperance. Nevertheless I stood abashed before him. Novice, cried he with a magisterial deportment, it is plain that thou hast had no serious call to a spiritual way of life; inasmuch as thy disposition, since thy admission amongst us, hath been marked by repeated acts of disobedience and depravity. Thou art not aware, peradventure,

peradventure, that thou hast thereby defrauded both Heaven and thyself: Heaven, since such discipline is an atonement for past offence; thyself, since every stripe that thou mightest have inflicted would have scourged out a portion of the venom of worldly wickedness from this thy sinful body. Avaunt then, son Raymond, depart this abbey: unfit art thou for God, and in no wise the manner of man that would prove eligible for our order. So spake the Superior.

In fine, I was dismissed from the monastery.

It were needless, illustrious knights, to recount to you the various and extraordinary means by which, after my banishment from the abbey of Benedictines, I endeavoured to participate of the luxuries of this life. Gaming and imposition were my chief resources ; yet could they not, at all times, be employed in full security. This compelled me very frequently to shift the scene, and to practise
where

where my face and my irregularities were unknown; so that few are the countries of Europe which I have not seen. At length, after many years of wandering, many escapes from the resentment of public justice, and the revenge of individuals, I resolved upon returning to my native land, and to seek for a restoration to the bosom of my family. But the first tidings which I learnt on my arrival in England was, that the venerable Sir Audemar was now no more, and that, in his testament, no

Our last famous strong hold was at the Peak of Derby. Our cavern became an opulent and resplendent magazine, from the humble fitch of bacon to manufactures in gold and silver. It was there that I laid the first foundation of this authority, which I maintain over these contented and obedient *banditti*. The various plans of pleasure which I invented and effected, at once indulged their appetites and soothed their love of ease. By degrees they grew attached to my person and my opinion: they felt

forming future schemes of dissipation. It was then that I projected my present empire, which consists in rendering others still subservient to my felicity, in a manner unheard of in any age or nation. I no sooner regained my liberty, than I associated with certain squadrons that subsisted by depredation. We robbed (Blessed Virgin! how we robbed!) from one end of England to the other. No thicket, no forest, no mountain was unknown to us. We eluded every effort of the civil power.

THE ADVENTURES OF
complying with my institutions,
and partly by a mixture with much
knightly company, refined into
decorum ; and any outrage in any
individual of our clan would draw
upon him not only my particular
displeasure, but likewise the ge-
neral indignation of the commu-
nity.

Thus have I related to you,
illustrious nobles, the origin, and
progress, and establishment of our
state, with a summary review of
the most remarkable particulars of
my

my own extraordinary life and character. My conduct, it is certain, hath been somewhat incorrect: yet with reason I may affirm, that it proceeded from no inborn maliciousness of soul, no propensity in my nature to molest mankind. My sole aim was to partake of pleasure in its utmost extent, to which unlucky turn of mind my education had contributed. Miserable, thrice miserable is the life of a younger brother. We are brought up in the castles of our fathers, amidst the luxury and

and dissipation attendant on great families; are at length turned out with all our appetites about us, and an inconsiderable allowance termed the fortune of a younger brother. Our wants (that is, our desires, which by habit become wants) remain, while our means of gratification are abridged, or even annihilated. I, it must be confessed, for a little time held a living: but I treat, in the general, of the forlorn state of younger brethren. For what, illustrious nobles, is an ignominious beef-steak

steak to him who hath been habituated to a triple display of viands at the board of a knight or baron? His parents inspire him with the love of purple and fine linen, and of faring sumptuously every day; and yet expect from him in future the self-denial of an anchorite.

Again: (for the subject leads me even beyond younger brethren, and entices me to touch upon education in general) in youth we are either committed to the care of private preceptors, or quartered

at

at schools and colleges, the masters of which are required to imbue our minds with knowledge, and (what is of far greater moment) to make us honest men. Nevertheless, what is the issue? At home, our parents and our kinsmen unravel the beautiful web of ethics which our instructors have woven for us; they dice, are inebriated, are profane in our presence: the precepts of brilliant wisdom, delivered in the learned lore of Athens and of Rome, are derided by the very persons who

pay

pay others for imparting them ;
and the parent, by a pernicious
and unaccountable warfare, be-
siegues the fair edifice erected by the
preceptor.

In schools and universities the
volumes we peruse inculcate the
purest maxims of political inte-
grity: the instructors enforce them ;
it is their duty, it is their pride ;
till the student returns to contem-
plate a father who himself is a
pattern of the vilest venality, and
who hath laboured to eradicate
from

from his own inglorious breast every principle that tended to form the accomplished citizen. O ye blind, and degenerate, and corrupted race of beings! wherefore this ignoble mockery under the title of education? Ye pay stipends to the learned to teach virtue to your offspring, not for the sake of virtue, but because ye find it customary. The province of the hired teacher hath its limits: the work is incomplete until *you* have crowned it; for domestic example is the key-stone of education.

Yet

Yet think not, noble warriors,
 that *all* these complaints have
 arisen from sad experience in the
 house from which I spring. Sir
 Audemar, my father, was an ho-
 nourable knight, and an ardent
 lover of his country. If first in
 his mansion I was made acquainted
 with Luxury, he little imagined
 that I should one day have occa-
 sion to wish that I had never
 known her.

But to return to my condition
 of patriarch——

Here

Here the lord duke of Lancaster, having rendered himself hoarse by repeating the declamation of Raymond, was suddenly constrained to suspend his narrative, and retire to his own castle.

V I S I T

V I S I T XI.

THE duke, on the
ensuing day, thus proceeded:

Many and various, continued
the patriarch, are the opinions
entertained with respect to my
character, and the motives which
gave rise to this establishment.
Some, who are inclined to think
severely

severely of me, assert that I am a ruffian the most ferocious and insufferable; that I first rob, and then ridicule the subjects of our lord the king, and detain them in an uncomfortable and inglorious captivity: that I have traiterously insulted the majesty of the English nation, by maintaining an armed force in the very bowels of the kingdom; and that the fraud which I make use of to entrap the unwary passenger is as distant from true valour as it is deserving of the
I deepest

deepest vengeance which the legislature can devise.

Others, on the contrary, who behold my principles and practices in a more favourable point of view, contend that my designs are less atrocious than it is imagined; that if I pillage, and restrain the loco-motive faculty of such as have accidentally become subject to my sway, it is with the laudable intention to make them merry, like myself, and to dissipate the gloom of their worldly anxieties, (and

who is there that hath them not?) by expending their own spoils for their behoof and entertainment; that with me dwell innocent festivity and knightly decorum, (and more than these what reasonable being can desire?) and that, as very many persons of both sexes, and of all conditions, within this realm of England, are tormented in divers ways with the malady of depressed spirits, which, how worthy or how wealthy soever those persons may be, create infinite disturbance both to them
and

and their connections, I, by compelling them to partake of our hilarity, and by spreading the contagion of my merriment amongst them, do actually chase away those cruel horrors from their minds, and thus remedy a disease that was before deemed incurable; that the mildness and equity of my administration, and the perpetual diversity of pleasures that I afford, are no mean compensation for the infringement on their freedom, which last is my sole and unavoidable act of

tyranny; that, even were they at liberty, what other pursuit would they have had but pleasure, in some one of its various and infinite modifications?

With respect to my ridiculing the persons whom I have robbed, it is alledged that my remarks are of benefit to those who hear them, and that the objects themselves of such salutary strictures may correct, in this retirement, with my critical aid, some follies that, in life at large, would expose them to

keener shafts of derision and disdain, than any they can experience within the territories of Raymond.

It is said, moreover, that my method of obtaining fresh additions to the assembly, so far from being an outrage against true valour, is, if a bloodless victory can be accounted the most glorious, an act of real heroism; that it is wisely adapted to the end of my institution, which is a frequent supply of new faces and characters,

and that violence, in such a case, would but endanger the lives of those for the sake of whose society the capture was attempted. In fine, it is observed that I am now far stricken in years, and that a constant variety of diversions is become necessary; that the world, in my earlier days, had used me but unkindly, and that now it is my turn to make that world recompense me, by compelling it to contribute to my support and my festivity. Here ended the patriarch.

It

It was now midnight, and the company yet enjoying the dance, when Raymond, anxious for the health of his female guests, arose, and thus addressed them: My children, sorry I am to be obliged to check your innocent entertainment; but my solicitude for your well-being, (and it is as a tender parent that I speak) demands that, for the present, I should exhort you to give over. He said, and the dancers, though reluctantly, dispersed. The lady Hermundura wiped her warm face, and, with

her right arm a-kimbo, and holding a corner of her apron in her left hand, marched up and down the hall, as it were to cool herself. Sir Marmaduke now ceased to take notice of his limbs. Sir Humphrey de Waverley, fatigued with the dances, and with affecting to be unaffected, was very glad to rest himself. Sir Hubert *modestly* sat down. Friar Matthew made a truce with propriety of language; but the squire *who knew the world*, though inclined to take his ease, would first tell the lady Her-
mundura

mundura a pleasant secret about the Low Countries; and which, the better to assist memory, was in the last leaf but one of his Rinaldo de Montauban.

And now many of the fair drew round the patriarch, for the purpose of conversing with him, and of receiving the encomiums which he with a liberal voice bestowed on their respective merits. These praises produced no inconsiderable effect: flattery, even from a robber, is delightful to the female ear;

and this politic old man, by arts like these, contrived to keep the ladies in good-humour with their captivity. Patriarch, did I dance well? cried the lady Barbarina, with a smiling face, and seating herself briskly beside him. Admirably, my child, said he, gently patting her upon the cheek, your delicate and well - proportioned frame seemed to promise it at the outset, and my conjectures concerning you have been in no wise disappointed. But, my darling, do not jump *quite* so high for the future.

future. You are a fine little damsel: by the head of Saint Francis I shall become enamoured of you. As Raymond uttered these words, the lady Barbarina took the opportunity to laugh, and exhibited her white teeth to a most enviable advantage. The lord Ferdinand Fitzwarrenne now approached, and, having some tender sayings to impart, led her off to a distant corner.

The company, refreshed with confections and cooling liquors,

at length took their leave of the patriarch for the night, who replied, "Good night, my children; " holy Mary keep ye." This said, each retired to his particular habitation. I had not been long in mine, when a voice from an adjoining cabin (the partition being thin, and in many places perforated) thus attracted my attention: It is often, brother, that I reflect on, and indeed deplore the condition of us ushers. To inspect, and be answerable for the conduct of youthful ladies; to be hated,

hated, and spited, and mocked, and mortified, is more, I vow to the Heavens, than I am well able to bear. Blessed be the auspicious hour, thrice blessed, when my ladies and I, pacing with our palfreys through the wilderness adjacent, were beguiled and circumvented by the melody of Mirandora. I say, brother, that I rejoice in my captivity, and pray God that it may last as long as I have to live. For, since we have sojourned amongst these merry-making caitiffs, I have enjoyed

joyed more ease, yea also better cheer, than ever I had to boast of at the castle of Sir Percival. Here damsels must look to themselves; ushers are, in this place, an utter nullity. So that, brother, let us even make the most of our good fortune, and indulge ourselves in pleasure, though it be but amongst free-booters.

He ended, and a second voice (the voice of another usher) replied as follows: Your complaints, brother usher, are not unjust; our
lives

lives are a perpetual dilemma. If faithful to our employers, and rigid superintendants of what is committed to our care, the youthful abhor us, and devise divers schemes to make us wretched or ridiculous. If treacherous to our trust, and indulgent to our ladies, to what perils are we not exposed from their giddiness or their ingratitude? In either point of view, then, our lot is truly pitiable. I am weary of my calling, and will be no more an usher. Nevertheless, brother, I have a curiosity to

to learn the particular sort of mischiefs with which you have been aggrieved while in your usherly vocation, to the end that I may compare your calamities with my own, so shall we affectionately condole with each other, and, if practicable, administer reciprocal consolation. And I, replied the former, have the like desire to hear what misadventures have been your portion. To whom the second usher: Do but gratify me first, and I will faithfully unfold to you every chapter of my misery. Then
the

JOHN OF GAUNT. 209

the first usher, hemming to dis-
embarrafs his voice, began in the
words which follow: My father
was an armourer——

But, my lord of Marche, said
the duke of Lancaster, permit me
to adjourn this history until the
visit of to-morrow. The earl
Mortimer, ever courteous and con-
siderate, acquiesced, and John of
Gaunt withdrew.

V I S I T

V I S I T X I I .

BUT the next day
the duke thus resumed the narra-
tion :

My father, said the first usher,
was an armourer in the city of
Coventry. Observing that I dis-
covered no genius for the anvil,
he sent me to a free school, where

I was

I was put into Latin grammar long before I could even tolerably read my native tongue. At length, having made some little progress in literature, my father took me home, in order to keep accounts for him, and to assist in collecting his debts, which, alas! were pretty numerous; many barons disdaining to pay him for their armour, and others cruelly causing him to mis-spend his time in waiting in the base courts, or in the barbicans *

* The barbican was the outer gate, the porter's lodge.

of their castles: then, if haply it were a clear day, they would at last come forth on horseback, and, as they pranced over the draw-bridge, would condescendingly nod at him, and cry, “so, Timothy;” but not a syllable concerning the money that was owing to us.

In fine, my father, weary of being “*so Timothy’d*” thus often, and perceiving that his business was fast verging to the decline, addressed me one day as follows:

Simeon,

Simeon, thou art now in the state of manhood ; it is time that thou shouldst bethink thee of some reputable mode of life, which may not only bring thee bread, but even enable thee to assist thy poor father in his necessity. I have been pondering, my son, upon thy parts and thy disposition ; with thy merit thou mayest hope to arrive at the post of usher in some ancient and august house, from which thou couldst derive a pleasant stipend for the present, with the prospect of an asylum when
thou

thou art old and inconsiderable. Therefore, my son, said he, accustom thyself betimes to the practice of a becoming gravity, as well in thy speech as in thy bodily demeanour. At the same time he admonished me to nourish a length of beard.

I religiously complied with these injunctions of my parent. Ere three months were at an end, my visage, from frequent exercise, had acquired a rare solemnity ; my utterance was regular and precise ;
and,

and, if a beard of eleven inches can be a recommendation to any mortal, that recommendation was indisputably mine.

In this guise did I repair to the castle of Sir Percival, a venerable knight of threescore and ten, who, it was rumoured, had occasion for an usher, to conduct two youthful damsels, one his niece and one his grand-daughter, the former of whom was named the lady Philippa, the latter the lady Florinda : they both are at present

captives

captives in this delicious habitation. Sir Percival was much struck with my orderly and grave aspect, and, after starting a few questions as to my origin and education, admitted me a member of his family. I flew to my father Timothy for the residue of my apparel, and for certain books of chivalry which I was addicted to peruse. My father wept for joy at the tidings of my establishment, and out of his scanty treasure gave me three and twenty shillings, that I might not be held contemptible

temptible in the estimation of the household.

In the evening I returned to the castle, and was presented by my patron to his niece and granddaughter. The lady Philippa was in her fifteenth year; her deceased father, a baron of exalted quality, had transmitted to her a rich inheritance, which, together with the recollection of her noble birth, had diffused an air of haughtiness over the deportment of this damsel, but which, nevertheless, the viva-

city and restlessness of her temper would on several occasions entice her to forget. Moreover, she was very pretty, and received much praise and flattery from her lovers; a circumstance which augmented the loftiness of her mind.

Her cousin, the lady Florinda, was of a milder cast of soul; less proud, less beautiful, but more lovely than the lady Philippa. She was in the amiable bloom of sixteen, and possessed something so agreeable and bewitching in her manners,

manners, that, with not quite so large a dowry, she had full as many adorers as her stately kinswoman. As I approached them, the lady Philippa, to avoid offending Sir Percival, endeavoured a little to subdue the disdainfulness of her demeanour; nevertheless it was manifest, from certain side looks, and a particular motion of her head, that she beheld me with considerable contempt. The lady Florinda looked arch.

These were no pleasing omens of that respect, and even authority, which I had vainly hoped to enjoy. I retired somewhat dispirited to my chamber ; but, soon reflecting that this reception might have been merely the result of a momentary levity, I prepared to exert myself with diligence in my function. The first attempt which I made at reformation in my youthful ladies was one morning, as I attended them on a visit to a neighbouring castle. The distance being short, we did not ride. Now
the

the lady Philippa, when she walked, had a custom of swinging one arm back and forward, which I deemed to be rather masculine, and unbefitting a damsel of her estate and quality. I collected therefore into my countenance whatever gravity I was possessed of, and leaning both hands upon my staff of ebony, reprimanded the fair niece of Sir Percival in these words: Nothing favours more of propriety, nor is withal more delightful, than a due regard to those distinguishing marks (of gesture

and manner, I mean) which nature hath bestowed on either sex, to the end that we might discriminate by other exterior tokens besides that of their attire. [Here, brother, I coughed a little; my father having remarked, as a secret in uſherſhip, that a fictitious cough, when ſeaſonably introduced, contributes to render one both intereſting and venerable, and is, as it were, an indication of ſteady thoughts.] It is therefore, my lady Philippa, continued I, that I would perſuade you to lay aſide that ſwinging of
your

your arm, and that I recommend both to you and to my lady Florinda a firmer step in your mode of walking, inasmuch as that manner of tottering on your heels imparts an unseemly motion to your heads and your whole bodies, which, in my judgment, hath the appearance of affectation, and even of pride, than which nothing can be more unsuitable to your maidenly condition. For there is a discreetness of air and of attitude, a reservedness in the very limbs as well as in the countenance, meet for persons of

your virgin years, and ornamental to womankind at any æra of their being. I beseech ye, therefore, my ladies, to give ear to what I advance, and to incline to a speedy amendment.

I was proceeding, brother, in this strain, when the lady Philippa, who reddened with indignation, and tossed her head until I verily thought it would drop off, replied abruptly, that had I known the limits of my office better, I would not have addressed them in a style
of

of such authority: that the duty of an usher was solely to attend them at church and at visitings, to go before them in a stiff posture, and to hand them in and out in a solemn and submissive manner. You will conceive, brother, that this discourse did not fail to surprise and mortify me. Pardon me, my lady, cried I with some emotion, such may indeed have been the paltry and circumscribed functions of the ushers of former days. We of the present age are intrusted with a more onerous and

L 5 important

important charge than that of being simple gentlemen of the ceremonies. It is ours, my lady, [this I said with a firm accent] to regulate, and, as it were, prune away those indecorous excrescencies of behaviour, if I may so term them, which, in the merriment of youth, are inconsiderately adopted as so many charms and graces, though Heaven knows they are clearly and deplorably the reverse. But this, my lady, is not all. To exhort, nay, to urge ye to the perusal of devout volumes, and to an indefatigable

tigable attention to embroidery and ten-stitch, whereby your youthful minds would be wholesomely pre-occupied, and little or no room left for silly thoughts, and for unsafe tenderneesses towards shewy knights of neither affluence nor ancestry; this to perform, I say, is the very sublimity of ushership.

By this time we had reached the mansion of our neighbour, otherwise I should have uttered a good deal more; having assembled

matter that was methodical and irresistible. But ere long I was a victim to their vengeance. In the evening we returned to the castle of Sir Percival. In this there was a circular tower, containing fundry rooms, the uppermost of which had been allotted to me. Below there was an apartment in which the ladies abode, when they read, or sang, or plied the labours of the needle. One common stair-case communicated with the whole, and at night-time was illumined by a single lamp, which hung about

about half-way between the top and the bottom. This lamp they maliciously (God in heaven forgive them for it) were in the practice of extinguishing, as soon as the bell rang for supper, when we quitted our respective apartments, they to join Sir Percival, and I to sit down to a table in the but-tery, provided for the superior domestics.

As the stairs were steep, and in many parts uneven, (it was as if one descended a belfry) I, who
with

with the best light found them difficult and-irksome, was not a little embarrassed, nay affrighted, in attempting to go down them in the dark. So that, brother, by the time that I could arrive at the buttery, the supper was quite cold, and the best bits devoured. For servants hate us ushers, inasmuch as they know not well in what class to consider us; we being neither servants, as they are, nor gentlemen, like their betters; but a dubious species of officers, to whom they are cautious of paying too

too much respect, and yet afraid of shewing too little. These delays were to me intolerable. For I loved something favoury for supper; and these wicked damsels knew it, by intelligence from their waiting-women.

Sometimes too, in order still to heighten their revenge, they disposed an old truncheon upon one of the stairs, which, when trodden on, would infallibly betray my feet, and hurry, or rather launch me with such a perilous velocity,

that I narrowly escaped fracturing my members. They had also a favourite fox-dog, that was grown aged and ill-tempered; this noxious animal they caused to lie upon the stair-case; so that I, in descending without a glimmering of light, must of necessity put my foot on his body: whereupon he would bounce suddenly with a hideous howling, snap at my legs alarmingly, and often throw me down.

One night likewise, as I was moving with much caution, and
praising

praising all the saints that no fox-dog was in my way, by mistake and fore mischance I went down a second stair-case, which branched out of the other, near the bottom. Whence is it, said I in a whisper, that this night I am so tedious in my descent? I thought I had been near the buttry ere now: assuredly I shall be late for supper, or, at best, shall obtain but a few lukewarm fragments. Blessed Mary! whither am I going? I reckoned that by this time I must be very deep, considering the
number

number of steps I had descended. But conceive my surprize and terror, when, on feeling around me, I found myself in a horrid vault, damp, noisome, and abounding with vermin, whose reiterated squeaking appalled me to the very heart. I sought for the stairs, but in vain. Oh, God! exclaimed I, with a groan that would have melted even a giant to compassion, here am I without food many fathoms under the earth! What mortal can hear my voice from this dismal profundity? I shall famish,
and

and be a prey to ravenous creatures. I was forthwith in a strong perspiration. Alas! continued I, this comes of my reproaches to the ladies Philippa and Florinda. What had I to do with their swinging, or their tottering? Why not have discreetly held my peace, and enjoyed their good opinion, and the comforts of this castle? But then, said I, on the other side, was it not a duty owing to myself and to Sir Percival? No—I repent not of my rigour: I perish a martyr to my integrity.

At

At length I bethought me of shouting. I hallowed until the cavern re-echoed. Fortunately, one of the handmaids, who was going up to the chambers, heard my outcries, and gave notice, that there was a voice from the dungeon. Whereupon lights were brought. By the aid of the serving-men, I ascended, pale, trembling, and in a deadly sweat, amidst repeated bursts of laughter from the astonished and diverted household. Sir Percival hearing the uproar, sent a page to inquire the cause;

cause; and, upon learning my disaster, gave orders that I should be put to bed, and that a tankard of mulled sack, with a toast and nutmeg in it, should be instantly made ready to recruit and comfort me.

You are sensible, brother, no doubt, that I have not without reason lamented the lot of ushers. Only that it would have been sinful in a person of my calling, I could have cursed my persecutresses in the bitterness of my soul. But
their

their malice stopped not here. Whensoever they espied me passing through the court of the castle, they tittered from behind the battlements, or through some adjacent spike-hole, which disquieted me beyond conception. For, of all inferior noises, tittering was the most offensive to me. My nerves were not equal to it. Moreover, it annoyed, and, as it were, undermined that importance and respectability, which are the cornerstones of our profession; it disconcerted the grave deportment which

I was

I was wont to assume, and was more than a man of my beard could well put up with. Accordingly, one afternoon, I rebuked them in the following terms : Tittering, said I, leaning on my staff of ebony, is a frivolous and discourteous ebullition of the spirits in youthful persons, particularly of the female sex, and is observed to be most prevalent during what is called their *teens*. For, after they have attained to the twentieth year of life, they, in general, become mature, demure, circumspect, and

and rational. Tittering, my ladies, is either a girlish and unwomanly affectation of being merry at the expence of others, by deriding, or attempting to deride, in a half-suppressed and ignoble style of laughter, some peculiarity in their raiment, speech, visage, or demeanour ; or it is a thoughtless and unmeaning aptitude to be merry ye know not why ; or it is (what is worst of all) a vindictive inclination to confound, put out of countenance, irritate, and affront some person who, ye imagine,

gine, hath done ye much displeasure. Having thus, my ladies, shewn ye the nature, origin, and objects of tittering, and likewise touched upon its moral deformity, I shall conclude with beseeching ye to preserve in future a more staid, sober, sensible, and collected behaviour, than ye hitherto have been accustomed to maintain.

I could have said a good deal more, brother, having assembled rare matter; but the remembrance of my past sufferings now awed me

VOL. I. M into

into brevity. Nevertheless, this forbearance didarmed not their repentment. For, it being my office to attend them when they took the air, they used secretly to cut the strangest flits in my riding-hood; insomuch that, when we passed through any village or hamlet, it became a pleasant pastime for the clowns and little children to run out, and behold these disgraces in my apparel. Nor was it until long afterwards that I discovered this their wantonness.

One

One day the lady Florinda, leaning both her arms on the cross handle of my staff of ebony, which she had stolen from its peg, and carelessly reclining her head on one shoulder, and raising her eyebrows with an air of great solemnity, accosted me as follows: Siméon, I much admire that thou ever tookest upon thee to conduct youthful damsels, seeing what an arduous office, even with the best among us, it is usually accounted to be. Not to mention the many miseries which are inevitably connected with it: such as frequent

loss of supper, aversion of chamber-maids and serving-men, faucinefs and unluckinefs of pages, peril of broken members, damnified apparel, and disobedience of the damsels committed to thy care. It were better for thee, Simeon, to have plied the labours of the file and hammer in the forge of thy father Timothy, than thus to suffer daily, nay hourly embarrassments, in the hazardous employ of ushership. For what boots it to thee, Simeon, that thou receivest a slender stipend, as a feeble remuneration

neration for thy ineffectual toils,
when well thou knowest that were
one of us to run away, or be secretly
wedded to some improper
baron, thou assuredly wouldest be
hanged upon the battlements of
this castle, for an accident which,
peradventure, thou couldst not
have prevented? [Here the fly flut
coughed a little, after my manner.]

Therefore, Simeon, I would coun-
sel thee to turn thy thoughts to
some other occupation more com-
fortable and secure.

M 3

I could

I could not for my life, brother, with my utmost efforts of decorum, maintain a serious aspect at this speech of the lady Florinda. I was vexed; but my vexation was in some degree subdued, by the propensity to laughter that I experienced on this occasion. As for the lady Philippa, my confusion was to her a comedy. However, I must in equity declare, that they were noble-hearted damsels, charitable to the necessitous, and of lively parts and understanding: but, incited by the hilarity inseparable

nable from their years, they took too much delight in tormenting their poor usher.

The words of the lady Florinda concerning hanging on the battlements, though doubtless uttered but in jest, created, I must confess, some uneasiness within me. It was an idea that had never struck either myself or my father Timothy. Who can tell, thought I, what the headstrong temper of youth, and the arts of designing nobles may betray these damsels to

M 4 commit?

commit? In fine, brother, so little peace had I enjoyed in my vocation, that I was an hundred times on the point of informing the good Sir Percival that life was a burthen to me, and of requesting forthwith my dismissal. But this ancient knight, though benevolent of heart, was nevertheless of a limited understanding, and could not be persuaded that any damsel highly born could be guilty of an indiscretion. Pride of ancestry was his prevailing weakness; memorials of it were extant

in every cranny of his residence. Not a wall, not a cieling, not a chimney, not a door, not a cupboard, not a banister, but exhibited some armorial bearing of his progenitors, or of families connected with his own by marriage. Accordingly, I entertained serious thoughts of studying heraldry. Every night, for the first week, I had regular dreams and visions of *or*, *argent*, *gules*, bends dexter and sinister, with griffins, antelopes, and lions rampant: but the government of my two damsels soon

engrossed all my attention, and weaned me from that cross-grained and extraordinary branch of science.

Sir Percival was a portly man, of a clear skin, cleanly in his person, and sumptuous in his attire. His sole exercise was walking to and fro in the great hall, with one hand in his bosom, and the other behind his back. In his attitude there was a slight stoop, not unsuitable to his time of life; in his gait a slow movement of the hinder

hinder parts from right to left, which occasioned a regular and not ungraceful dangling of his skirts; circumstances that, together with a gentle agitation of his head, which was more the effect of old age than of affectation, diffused over his person a gentlemanly appearance. His principal enjoyment during these his ambulations, was to gaze ever and anon at the hereditary suits of armour that hung against the arches, and at pictures of grim knights with battle-axes and maces, the Per-

civals of ancient days. It was easy to divine, from the satisfaction in his face, that he blessed the powers above that he was of so dignified an extraction. Sir Percival, however, had something affable and mild about him, and his domestics and retainers were affectionately attached to him.

This description of my patron leads me round to my first object, which was to shew how ineffectual it would have proved, had I attempted to reveal my discontents
and

and furrnishes to him: seeing that it was his maxim, that no person of pedigree could be capable of an unwise or an indecorous action. The danger therefore was, that he might dismiss me unpaid, and punish me, peradventure, for defaming his grand-daughters.

The last trick they played me was to contrive, on days that I was to attend them on horse-back, that the grooms should give me the oldest and laziest palfrey in the stables, while they themselves
were

were mounted upon beasts of the best mettle. Add to this, that, of a windy day, my eyes, if opposed to the gale, were apt to water, which prevented me from seeing as accurately as my office perhaps demanded. This the damsels knew, and therefore never failed to ride against the wind. One day, while my eyes were thus heavily afflicted, the stubborn inactivity of my steed adding much to my chagrin, the two ladies on a sudden whipped their palfreys, and in a few minutes were beyond the reach both
of

of my vision and my voice. I proceeded tediously, (though I had almost broken my staff of ebony, in beating the tardy beast) and at length perceived them hiding at the corner of a forest. As I approached, the lady Philippa cried aloud, Simeon, Simeon, why Simeon, in the name of Holy Mary, what hath kept thee? Is it thus that thou takest charge of us damfels? O that Sir Percival were acquainted with thy treachery. He would confine thee in the dungeon for a month. Who knows, idle
and

and inconsiderate usher, what knights might have been in this forest? or what might have befallen us, helpless as we are, whilst thou wert taking thy pleasure slowly and at ease, inattentive to thy duty, and to the peril of thy ladies? O wicked, wicked usher!

I was preparing, brother, to reply, as well as the state of things would permit, (having assembled no matter for this unexpected occasion) when the sound of divers instruments, and of human melody,

lody, assailed our astonished ears:
We rode further into the forest,
and fell into the same misfortune,
(if such it may be called) which
you and the rest of our fellow cap-
tives have experienced. It is a
judgment on you, my ladies, cried
I, as soon as we awoke from the
deep slumber into which that di-
vine liquor had cast us, it is a
judgment on ye both, for the mi-
series ye have caused me to en-
dure.

Never-

Nevertheless, brother, I was somewhat disappointed by this strange turn of fortune, having indulged within my heart the aspiring and glorious hope, that for me it was reserved to banish swaying, tottering, and tittering, from the catalogue of female follies, and that I should acquire thereby an immortal renown, and be accounted the very cream and flower of our fraternity. And here, my dear brother, are they dancing among robbers, with as little concern, as if the good old Sir Percival were not numbered with the living.

Thus

Thus ended the first usher his
afflicting narrative.

By this time the duke of Lancaster was very much fatigued with reciting so long a story ; insomuch that he was constrained to call for a cup of Canary. Being refreshed therewith, he took his leave, promising the lord Edmond Mortimer that he would faithfully relate the calamities of the second usher, at their next meeting.

END OF THE FIRST VOLUME.



ERRATA.

V O L. I.

Page 7, line 11, for "a dolphin a field azure," read
"a dolphin in a field azure."

P. 50, line 1, for "Palmeria," read "Palmerin."

P. 135, for "modesty to expect," read "the modesty
"to expect."

P. 136, line 2, for "hallowed," read "holloed."



MAY 29 1950